

U.S. Patent Appl. No. 10/728,947- Mockel *et al.*
Attorney Docket No.: 021123-0306724

II. AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (New) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1; and
- (b) a nucleotide sequence complementary to (a).

25. (New) An isolated nucleic acid according to claim 24, wherein one or more of the codons in said SEQ ID NO: 1 are replaced with a degenerate codon.

26. (New) An isolated nucleic acid according to claim 24, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises one or more functionally neutral sense mutations that do not alter the enolase polypeptide activity.

27. (New) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof and encoding a polypeptide that has enolase activity.

28. (New) An isolated nucleic acid comprising nucleotides encoding a protein with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

29. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 28, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide which is at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein said polypeptide exhibits enolase activity.

30. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 28, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide which is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein said polypeptide exhibits enolase activity.

31. (New) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3;
- (b) a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4; and

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(c) a nucleotide sequence complementary to (a) or (b).

32. (New) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of any one of claims 24-31.

33. (New) The vector of claim 35, wherein said vector is an expression vector.

34. (New) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 32.